

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 SCEM-02 INT-08 SPC-03 AID-20

EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 IO-14 NIC-01 COME-00 DRC-01

SAJ-01 /170 W

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R 201400Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9399

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, GW, UK, EGEN

SUBJECT: EC REGIONAL FUND: "FRG CANNOT PLAY ROLE OF
EEC PAYMASTER"

REF: BONN 18212

1. FRG DEPUTY SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD HAS TOLD THE PRESS
DEC 19 GERMAN CABINET MEETING REAFFIRMED THE POSITION
TAKEN BY FRG FONOFF STATE SECRETARY APEL ON REGIONAL
FUND AT DEC 17-18 EC OUNCIL . GRUENEWALD CONFIRMED
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INFORMATION FROM OUR OTHER SOURCES THAT APEL HAD ACTED

UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM GERMAN "ECONOMIC CABINET."
SPOKESMAN SAID FRG MINISTRIES WILL PURSUE THE SUBJECT
FURTHER BUT THAT DEC 19 CABINET DID NOT TAKE ANY NEW
DECISIONS ON REGIONAL POLICY.

2. DURING DEC 18-19 INTERVIEWS, APEL TOOK A VERY TOUGH
LINE, BRANDING BRITAIN'S DEMANDS FOR "A REGIONAL FUND
OF DM 11 BILLION FOR THREE YEARS AS UNREASONABLE AND
UNREALISTIC AT THE PRESENT STAGE OF INTEGRATION." APEL
CONTINUED: QUOTE: OUR FINANCIAL POSITION DOES NOT
PERMIT THIS AT THE PRESENT MOMENT AND THE FRG HAS NO
ROOM FOR MANEUVER IN THIS RESPECT, ESPECIALLY AS
BRITAIN IS CLEARLY NOT PREPARED TO LOWER ITS REALLY
COMPLETELY EXCESSIVE DEMANDS. THE FRG OFFERED TO PAY
DURING EACH OF THE NEXT THREE YEARS DM 204 MILLION FOR
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNDERDEVELOPED REGIONS OF THE
COMMUNITY. FOR THIS AMOUNT 900,000 WORKERS MUST WORK
FOR ONE WEEK....THOSE WHO ARE TO RECEIVE THE MONEY
BELIEVE THIS IS FAR TOO LITTLE. I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE
NOT RESPONSIBLE IF OTHERS DO NOT WANT OUR MONEY....OIL
SOLIDARITY HAS BECOME THE FOUNDATION OF EUROPEAN
INTEGRATION AND FRIENDSHIP CANNOT BE BOUGHT. PRESSURE
WILL ASSUREDLY FAIL TO MOVE ANYTHING. BRITISH DEMANDS
ARE SO EXCESSIVE THAT IT SEEMS ALTOGETHER UNTHINKABLE
TO EVEN COME NEAR ITS RANGE OF THINKING. THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC CANNOT PLAY THE ROLE OF EEC PAYMASTER. END
QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: THIS GERMAN LINE ON REGIONAL FUND ISSUES IS
MANIFESTATION OF INCREASING FRG UNWILLINGNESS TO BE
"PAYMASTER" FOR EITHER EC PARTNERS OR NATO ALLIES. WITH
MEMORIES OF UGLY PAST RECEDING FROM PUBLIC CONSCIOUS-
NESS AND WITH A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF GERMAN POPULATION
BORN ONLY AFTER 1945, GERMAN GOVERNMENT READINESS TO
BUY FRIENDS AND RESPECTABILITY IS SHARPLY REDUCED.
WHILE FINANCE MINISTER SCHMIDT HAS BEEN
PARTICULARLY STRONG ADVOCATE OF VIEW THAT GERMANS
SHOULD RECEIVE BENEFITS FROM AS WELL AS PAY OUT TO
COMMUNITY, THIS PHILOSOPHY IS PROLIFERATING WITHIN
GOVERNMENT. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT CURRENT GERMAN
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POSITION ON REGIONAL FUND, AS WELL AS BURDEN SHARING
AND OTHER ISSUES IN EC, NATO AND BILATERAL CONTEXTS,
ARE PERCEIVED IN THIS PERSPECTIVE. WE EXPECT
THIS APPROACH WILL BE MORE RATHER THAN LESS IN
EVIDENCE IN THE FUTURE .
HILLENBRAND

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